

REMARKS

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the drawings because they fail to show "the at least one input node for the input signal is connected to the at least one evaluation circuit" in claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit amended Figure 3 to assist in overcoming the objection. Figure 3 now provides additional detail regarding the input signal (13) and energy flow. The input node (11) is also indicated on Figure 3. Applicant respectfully submits that amended Figure 3 is now consistent with Figure 1 and further that the Figures now indicate any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Figure 3 and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 5 and 6 are objected to by the Examiner. Applicant submits herewith amended claims incorporating appropriate corrections and respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the objections to the claims.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-14, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Regarding the rejection of claim 1, Applicant submits herewith an amended Figure 3 which clarifies the drawing and provides reference for the input signal (13) and the input node (11). It is noted on the amended drawing that the input node also functions as the connection between the pull up subdriver (20) and the pull down subdriver (30). See Figures 1 and 2. Thus, the evaluation circuit (50) is connected to the input node (11) and the subdrivers (20, 30). Arrows have been added to aid in

visualizing the flow of energy. When amended Figure 3 is viewed in combination with Figures 1 and 2, it is submitted that all necessary detail is now indicated.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of claims 16 and 17 as being indefinite because the claims merely recited a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how the use is actually practiced, Applicants respectfully submit amended claims 16 and 17 to assist in overcoming the rejection.

In view of the amendments and reasons provided above, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The amendments clarify the patentable invention without adding new subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, Jeffrey R. Stone at 952 253-4130.

Respectfully submitted,

Altera Law Group, LLC
Customer No. 22865

Date:

5/3/04

By:



Jeffrey R. Stone
Reg. No. 47,976
JRS/M

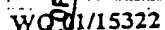


FIG 3

